

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

Replacement Claim Set:

1. (Currently amended) An apparatus ~~for coating implantable devices~~, comprising:
 - a) ~~—~~a chamber;

~~in which a means for applying a coating composition comprising a coating solvent can be applied to an implantable device; and~~
 - b) ~~—~~a pressure controller for controlling the pressure of the chamber at other than ambient pressure,wherein other than ambient pressure is less than 760 torr if the coating solvent is non-volatile, and alternatively, wherein other than ambient pressure is greater than 760 torr if the coating solvent is volatile.
2. (Currently amended) The apparatus of Claim 1 ~~additionally including wherein the means for applying comprises an applicator for spraying a~~ the composition at the device.
3. (Original) The apparatus of Claim 1 additionally including a support assembly for holding the device during the coating process.
4. (Original) The apparatus of Claim 1 additionally including means for rotating the device during the coating process.
5. (Original) The apparatus of Claim 1 additionally including means for moving the device in a linear direction during the coating process.

6. (Original) The apparatus of Claim 1 additionally including means for creating convection flow within the chamber.
7. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of Claim 1 wherein the coating composition further comprises a polymer and optionally a therapeutic substance.
8. (Original) The apparatus of Claim 1 additionally including a temperature controller for adjusting the temperature of the chamber.
9. (Currently amended) An apparatus ~~for coating implantable devices~~, comprising:
 - a) ~~—~~a chamber;

~~in which a means for applying~~ a coating composition comprising a coating solvent ~~can be applied~~ to an implantable device; and
 - b) ~~—~~a pressure controller for controlling the pressure of the chamber at other than ambient pressure,wherein other than ambient pressure is greater than 760 torr if the coating solvent evaporation rate is to be decreased, and alternatively, wherein other than ambient pressure is less than 760 torr if the coating solvent evaporation rate is to be increased.
10. (Currently amended) The apparatus of Claim 9 ~~additionally including wherein~~ the means for applying comprises an applicator for spraying the composition at the device.
11. (Original) The apparatus of Claim 9 additionally including a support assembly for holding the device during the coating process.

12. (Original) The apparatus of Claim 9 additionally including means for rotating the device during the coating process.
13. (Original) The apparatus of Claim 9 additionally including means for moving the device in a linear direction during the coating process.
14. (Original) The apparatus of Claim 9 additionally including means for creating convection flow within the chamber.
15. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of Claim 9 wherein the coating composition further comprises a polymer and optionally a therapeutic substance.
16. (Original) The apparatus of Claim 9 additionally including a temperature controller for adjusting the temperature of the chamber.
17. (Currently amended) An apparatus ~~for coating implantable devices~~, comprising:
 - a) ~~—a chamber;~~

~~in which a means for applying a coating composition comprising a coating solvent can be applied to an implantable device; and~~

 - b) ~~—a pressure controller for controlling the pressure of the chamber at a pressure,~~

wherein pressure is other than ambient pressure and is based on the vapor pressure of the coating solvent.
18. (Currently amended) The apparatus of Claim 17 ~~additionally including wherein the means for applying comprises an applicator for spraying the composition at the device.~~

19. (Original) The apparatus of Claim 17 additionally including a support assembly for holding the device during the coating process.
20. (Original) The apparatus of Claim 17 additionally including means for rotating the device during the coating process.
21. (Original) The apparatus of Claim 17 additionally including means for moving the device in a linear direction during the coating process.
22. (Original) The apparatus of Claim 17 additionally including means for creating convection flow within the chamber.
23. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of Claim 17 wherein the coating composition further comprises a polymer and optionally a therapeutic substance.
24. (Original) The apparatus of Claim 17 additionally including a temperature controller for adjusting the temperature of the chamber.
25. (New) An apparatus comprising:
 - a chamber in which a coating composition comprising a coating solvent can be applied to an implantable device;
 - means for moving the device in a linear direction during the coating process; and
 - a pressure controller for controlling the pressure of the chamber at other than ambient pressure,wherein other than ambient pressure is less than 760 torr if the coating solvent is non-volatile, and alternatively, wherein other than ambient pressure is greater than

760 torr if the coating solvent is volatile.

26. (New) An apparatus comprising:

a chamber in which a coating composition comprising a coating solvent
can be applied to an implantable device;

means for creating convection flow within the chamber; and

a pressure controller for controlling the pressure of the chamber at other
than ambient pressure,

wherein other than ambient pressure is less than 760 torr if the coating solvent is
non-volatile, and alternatively, wherein other than ambient pressure is greater than
760 torr if the coating solvent is volatile.

27. (New) An apparatus comprising:

a chamber in which a coating composition comprising a coating solvent
can be applied to an implantable device;

an applicator for spraying the composition at the device; and

a pressure controller for controlling the pressure of the chamber at other
than ambient pressure,

wherein other than ambient pressure is greater than 760 torr if the coating solvent
evaporation rate is to be decreased, and alternatively, wherein other than ambient
pressure is less than 760 torr if the coating solvent evaporation rate is to be in-
creased.

28. (New) An apparatus comprising:

a chamber in which a coating composition comprising a coating solvent

can be applied to an implantable device;

means for moving the device in a linear direction during the coating process; and

a pressure controller for controlling the pressure of the chamber at other than ambient pressure,

wherein other than ambient pressure is greater than 760 torr if the coating solvent evaporation rate is to be decreased, and alternatively, wherein other than ambient pressure is less than 760 torr if the coating solvent evaporation rate is to be increased.

29. (New) An apparatus comprising:

a chamber in which a coating composition comprising a coating solvent can be applied to an implantable device;

means for creating convection flow within the chamber; and

a pressure controller for controlling the pressure of the chamber at other than ambient pressure,

wherein other than ambient pressure is greater than 760 torr if the coating solvent evaporation rate is to be decreased, and alternatively, wherein other than ambient pressure is less than 760 torr if the coating solvent evaporation rate is to be increased.

30. (New) An apparatus comprising:

a chamber in which a coating composition comprising a coating solvent can be applied to an implantable device;

an applicator for spraying the composition at the device; and

a pressure controller for controlling the pressure of the chamber at a pressure,

wherein pressure is other than ambient pressure and is based on the vapor pressure of the coating solvent.

31. (New) An apparatus comprising:

a chamber in which a coating composition comprising a coating solvent can be applied to an implantable device;

means for moving the device in a linear direction during the coating process; and

a pressure controller for controlling the pressure of the chamber at a pressure,

wherein pressure is other than ambient pressure and is based on the vapor pressure of the coating solvent.

32. (New) An apparatus comprising:

a chamber in which a coating composition comprising a coating solvent can be applied to an implantable device;

means for creating convection flow within the chamber; and

a pressure controller for controlling the pressure of the chamber at a pressure,

wherein pressure is other than ambient pressure and is based on the vapor pressure of the coating solvent.